

the kingdom, we will let the veil of oblivion drop over her life, and confine ourselves to that of Honestus.

Honestus having finished his studies at Oxford, was intended by his indulgent parents for the bar, in consequence of which he was placed to one of the most eminent in that profession; and such was his deportment, that he promised to be at least equal to his preceptor.

But as all earthly beings are subject to change, such was to be the fate of Honestus; who, from a series of misfortunes which befel his parents, was no longer to enjoy that tranquillity of mind which he had in the juvenile part of his life possessed.

His father, to avoid his creditors (owing to some failures in the Alley) was obliged to fly his native country; his mother, struck with this, and the apprehension of her darling son being cast off by his master, (which happened soon after) and the indiscretion of her daughter, was bereft of her senses.

In this situation what was Honestus to do? *He could not dig, to beg he was ashamed!*—Although born of a good family, and some even living in affluence, he soon experienced from his nearest relations a coolness of behaviour which hurt the sensibility of his mind.

He, therefore, by the advice of his acquaintance, and assisted by them with some money

money, determined to try another climate, and accordingly embarked for the West-Indies, hoping to find the hearts of the people equally warm with the climate.

A character like Honestus could not be long in any nation without being taken notice of; the goodness of his understanding, cultivated by a fine education, his affable behaviour, and genteel deportment, was a certain recommendation for him to the more sensible and feeling part of mankind.

An unforeseen, and, perhaps, unheard of circumstance, brought him into a higher rank in life than he had ever before experienced. Honestus from his youth had been a great admirer of the theatres, and had some inclination, when misfortunes first fell upon his family, to have made an attempt in that way of life, but the pride of those friends, who afterwards refused him subsistence, prevented it. It chanced a proposal was made by some young ladies and gentlemen (as there were neither playhouses or players on the island) to perform one for their own amusement. The play chose was Hamlet, in which character, on the first performance, Honestus acquitted himself with such universal approbation, that he was requested to perform it twice more, which his natural disposition (little thinking of the good fortune which would follow) prompted him to do.

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